

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

50X1

COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Polish Border Guards' (WOP) Air
Observation, Warning and Reporting

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1. The responsibilities of visual air warning observation and reporting have been assigned to WOP border sentries since 1949. In 1951, the 8th WOP Brigade received instruction manuals from the Staff of the Air Defense Arm (OPL) in Warsaw. One manual concerned foreign aircraft recognition, (primarily of the US, British, French and Swedish types). The second manual consisted of Air Defense Arm instructions /approximately 80 sheets/ on procedure and responsibilities of visual air warning stations.

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Since 1949, each WOP border sentry has been instructed to observe and report to his superior any and all aircraft flying in his vicinity. Border patrol sentries, away from border posts, were instructed to report sighted aircraft by a predetermined signal; either by a specific number of rounds fired or by the use of flares. The system of signaling was as follows:

2. Four volleys of four rounds or two red flares indicated that aircraft were observed flying from Czechoslovakia to Poland; two volleys of two rounds or two green flares meant that aircraft were seen flying from Poland to Czechoslovakia.
3. All border sentry posts were equipped with circular direction indicators which were graduated in an azimuth. When a post sentry hears the warning shots or sees the warning flares, he attempts to locate the aircraft visually. When and if he sights the flight himself, he determines the direction of the flight by the use of the above mentioned indicator and makes his report to the Post

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Duty NCO who, in turn, notifies the Post Duty Officer. If the sentry does not sight the flight personally, he reports only the direction from which the warning came. The duty officer then reports this information, by telephone: first to WOP Brigade Headquarters, and then to his brigade commander and battalion commander in that order. WOP air observation reports are always given in code and contain the following information:

- 1. Date
- 2. Time
- 3. Number of planes or groups
- 4. Direction (true)
- 5. Map coordinates
- 6. Altitude
- 7. What is plane doing?

4. The system of WOP Air Observation Practice is as follows:

KODOGRAM NO: UPOWIETRZE (Air) This is key word or alert signal
To: KLON 42 (cryptonym of Brigade Headquarters. 42 is the telephone number of Brigade duty officer).

025 1030 003 (or group, if number of planes unknown),
090 1500 2427 are numbers representing what plane, or planes, are doing.

Date and time_____

Who transmitted_____

Who received_____

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- 025 = date (zero always precedes date)
- 1030 = hour flight sighted
- 003 = number of aircraft sighted. If number unknown then the word "group" is substituted.
- 090 = Direction of flight (true)
- 1500 = Altitude
- 2427 = map coordinated (Source could not reconstruct map coordinates)
- PERELYOT (flying across border)
- DROPPING BOMBS
- STRAFING
- CIRCULING (reconnaissance)

In general, the delay of Air observation reports occurred in obtaining the information from the border guards, and in attempting to verify the information. No time was lost in transmitting the information. Once the word UPOWIETRZE was given, telephone circuits were set up immediately for transmission.

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5. The officer on duty at WOP Brigade Headquarters has 15 minutes to relay the information to Wroclaw 5106N-1702E (probably to the airfield). Official regulations require that such reports reach WOP Brigade Headquarters from the Duty Office within five minutes of sighting the aircraft. On many occasions, the reports reached WOP Brigade Headquarters as late as one hour

6. Sentry reported 20 minutes after first hearing the aircraft.

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It is a physical impossibility to make the report to WOP Brigade five minutes after sighting the aircraft, even though the air warning code is not difficult, and can be learned by any officer in a period of several minutes, thus expediting the message. The only time element involved here is determining the "kodo-gram No " from the files of the commanding officer. On numerous occasions, some duty officers do not bother to transmit such reports realizing that they will be late in so doing. As an officer, he often tells the sentry that the sentry has misinterpreted the report signal with that of the noise of a tank or some other vehicle.

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The code, utilized in transmitting such reports to the WOP Brigade Headquarters, is a "numerical code". This code is changed by WOP Headquarters every month and is classified as Secret: the format of which is approximately as follows:

7. KODOGRAM Nr. 127SECRET

(coded message No. 127)

DO "ATOM" 32 (Brigade code name, changed every month) (To "ATOM" 32)

014	085	12	or	GRUPA
(time 1400)	(direction)	(no. of a/c)	(if no. of a/c unknown they use "a group")	
1500	2748	PRZELOT		BOMBARDUJE
(altitude)	(geographical grid square)	(flying over)		(are bombing)

KRAZA

(circling)

NADAL: JANKOWSKI KAPRAL

Transmitting Operator: JANKOWSKI, Cpl.

Signed
(PODPISAL)

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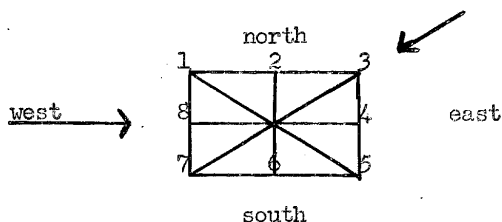
PRZYJAL: GAJDA ST. STR.

RECEIVED: GAJA, Pfc.

Such transmissions are given the highest priority and when the receiving operator hears the word UPOWIETRZE ("AIR" aircraft flying over), he disconnects all other calls. Upon receipt of the message, the WOP Brigade notifies Wroclaw Airfield where fighter aircraft are alerted.

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8. A new system was adopted in May 1951, which though not a code, is of such a nature, that the enemy could not encipher it readily. (This more simple system, therefore, would no longer consume an appreciable amount of time). The basic difference between the old and new system is as follows: The old system was in clear text with the exception of direction of flight. Direction of flight was on the following basis:



Flight direction was determined according to the above diagram as "direction 3 - 4", or "direction 3 - 7".

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